

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/667,964

Examiner

James A. Thompson

Applicant(s)

DALRYMPLE, JOHN CHARLES

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 29 May 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16 and 18-30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.


THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


DAVID MOORE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

James A. Thompson
Examiner
Technology Division 2625

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Pre-Appeal Conference Brief, filed 29 May 2007, with respect to the rejections of claims 16 and 18-30 under 35 USC §103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 16 and 18-30 under 35 USC §103(a) set forth in the final rejection mailed 08 March 2007 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 16 and 18-30 are allowed.**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Firstly, while the combination of Brown (USPN 5,835,687) in view of Lau (USPN 6,798,537 B1) is the closest prior art, Applicant has demonstrated in the Pre-Appeal Conference Brief that said combination does not fully teach the presently recited independent claims. Further, Examiner has not discovered additional prior art which anticipates the presently recited claims and/or renders the presently recited claims obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

While the use of random numbers in error diffusion is known in the prior art, the presently recited independent claims each recite particular features which are not taught by the prior art. Independent claim 16 recites the limitations (1) generating a set of multiple random seed values from a random number generator for use as initial error values when starting an error diffusion process, (2) adjusting each of the random seed values from the random number generator prior to starting the error diffusion operation, and (3) that such adjusted random seed values are relatively large, likely to cause a dot to be printed, and increase the likelihood that dots will be printed sooner when a transition occurs between a zero image region and a nonzero image region. Independent claims 18, 24 and 29 recite similar limitations. By initializing the random error buffers for random error diffusion, image artifacts such as startup transients are mitigated. This particular combination of features is not taught in the prior art, nor has prior art been discovered which would render the combination of features obvious. Thus, independent claims 16, 18, 24 and 29 are deemed to be allowable. Furthermore, claims 19-23, 25-28 and 30 are deemed allowable at least owing to their respective dependencies.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Thompson whose telephone number is 571-272-7441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

James A. Thompson
Examiner
Technology Division 2625

JAT
28 June 2007



**DAVID MOORE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**